

Undergraduate Admissions Statement

1. Admissions Process

The University is in the process of changing the way it organises undergraduate admissions activity. The Director of Student Recruitment, Access and Admissions has appointed a professional undergraduate selection team. They will be responsible for implementing the selection process for some or all of the undergraduate programmes in this School, working in close cooperation with the admissions tutor. This means that the process used may be slightly different from that described in the current document. We will publish the final details of the process as soon as possible.

This Statement should be read in conjunction with the University's Admissions Principles and Procedures (<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/university/governance/policies/admissions/>).

Year of admissions cycle - 2012

Degree programmes covered

Economics programmes:

L100 Economics
L101 Economics with Study in Continental Europe
L140 Economics and Econometrics
LN13 Economics and Finance

Accounting and Finance programmes:

LN14 Economics and Accounting
NN34 Accounting and Finance with Study in Continental Europe
NN43 Accounting and Finance

Management programmes:

LN12 Economics and Management
N200 Management
NN42 Accounting and Management

Joint honours degrees*:

LG11 Economics and Mathematics
LL12 Economics and Politics
VL51 Philosophy and Economics

* The precise procedures of the joint schools are not explained in detail here and reference should be made to the Departmental Admissions Statements of the partner departments for further information.

Admissions Team

School Director of Undergraduate Admissions,
School Admissions Tutors,
Social Sciences and Law Central Admissions Team

Outline of assessment methods

All applicants are contacted within four weeks of receipt of the application, to establish contact and inform the applicant of the process to be followed. Applications received on time (in accordance with the deadlines of the UCAS application cycle) are guaranteed equal academic consideration.

All UCAS forms are considered independently by two members of the admissions team, and all applications are considered on an equal basis. Forms are **NOT** segregated by the type of educational institution attended.

In determining whether to make an offer, the Admissions Tutors consider ...

- whether the applicant's academic potential is such that it is likely that (s)he would be successful in his or her chosen degree programme; and
- whether sufficient spaces are available on that programme.

The Admissions Tutors assess academic potential, taking account of a wide variety of factors which include, but are not limited to, actual academic performance to date and predicted results for qualifications currently being studied. Other factors include those described in section 2.

Because of the very high number of applicants, and to ensure that all those applying on time are treated fairly, a number of applications will be held until February before a decision is made.

Departmental Visit Days and other correspondence with applicants

All candidates who have applied on time and have been made an offer of a place will be invited to attend one of two Open Days usually held in March. These Open Days are held purely to help applicants decide which offer to accept and will play no role in the selection process. Information about the Open Days will be provided on the School website at <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/efm/prospective-undergraduates/>, together with details of precinct tours for those unable to attend the Open Days. Invitations to the Open Days are sent by post in February.

Additional assessment: interviews

The School will only interview in exceptional circumstances, for example in the case of mature students whose qualifications may provide a poor guide to academic ability.

All interviews are conducted by at least two people, one of whom has been trained in fair and effective recruitment techniques, and are undertaken in accordance with the University's policy on equal opportunities.

Cross-dept/joint course admissions arrangements

For joint honours applications both departments review the UCAS form and a joint decision is made.

Full information on the different admissions requirements for the joint honours schools is available on the University's website.

2. Criteria for assessing applicants

Entry requirements

The courses we offer and our anticipated typical A-levels offer levels for UK/EU applicants for 2012 entry follow. Note that for pre-2010 A-levels grade A is acceptable rather than A*. Academic entry requirements for other standard UK qualifications (SQA, IB, Access, BTEC, Welsh Bacc, 14-19 Diploma, GCSEs) can be found in the online Undergraduate Prospectus.

The codes shown below are UCAS subjects codes, the offers levels shown are for A-levels, and "C3 and C4" refer to the A2 modules (Pure) Core Mathematics 3 and 4 (note that these module requirements are for students taking A-levels in the UK. Students taking A-levels elsewhere, such as Cambridge International Examinations or Singaporean A-levels will not follow the same modular system and for them the Mathematics requirement is simply grade A overall):

Economics programmes

L100 Economics	A*AA-AAB inc AA in C3 and C4
L101 Economics with Study in Continental Europe	A*AA-AAB inc AA in C3 and C4 (also a language requirement)
L140 Economics and Econometrics	A*AA-AAB inc AA in C3 and C4
LN13 Economics and Finance	A*AA-AAB inc AA in C3 and C4

http://www.bristol.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2012/sections/ECON/dept_intro

Accounting and Finance programmes

LN14 Economics and Accounting	AAA-AAB inc AB in C3 and C4
NN34 Accounting and Finance with Study in Continental Europe	AAA-AAB inc AB in C3 and C4 (also a language requirement)
NN43 Accounting and Finance	AAA-AAB inc AB in C3 and C4

http://www.bristol.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2012/sections/ACCT/dept_intro

Management programmes

LN12 Economics and Management	A*AA-AAB inc AA in C3 and C4
N200 Management*	AAA-AAB inc AB in C3 and C4
NN42 Accounting and Management	AAA-AAB inc AB in C3 and C4

http://www.bristol.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2012/sections/XECO/dept_intro

Joint programmes with Departments outside the School of Economics, Finance and Management

LG11 Economics and Mathematics	A*AA-AAB inc AA in C3 and C4
LL12 Economics and Politics	AAA-AAB inc AA in C3 and C4
VL51 Philosophy and Economics	AAA-AAB inc AA in C3 and C4

http://www.bristol.ac.uk/prospectus/undergraduate/2012/sections/ECON/dept_intro

Other qualifications, including international qualifications, will be considered on their individual merits; further general information is available at <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/international/study-at-bristol/how-to-apply/country-specific/> and you can find more specific information about the requirements of the School of Economics, Finance and Management at <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/efm/prospective-undergraduates/admissions/> which offers links to detail about other EU qualifications, international qualifications and University Foundation Programmes.

Academic record criteria

The following indicates a general ranking process which we use, however academic potential is the essential characteristic we are seeking to evaluate.

Mathematics

All of the Accounting, Economics, Finance and Management degree programmes at the University of Bristol have a strong mathematical component and applicants are required to offer a high level Mathematics qualification such as A-Level Mathematics at a minimum of grade A or its equivalent. For applicants who are taking their A-Levels in the UK this should include grades of at least AB in the modules (Pure) Core Mathematics 3 and (Pure) Core Mathematics 4, or grade A for AQA's XMCA2 paper. This will not apply to applicants taking their A-Levels outside the UK (such as Cambridge International Examinations or Singaporean A-Levels) due to the different structures of those qualifications - for such applicants grade A overall in Mathematics is sufficient.

Applicants who are taking a Foundation course need to be studying Mathematics at a level equivalent to A-Level as part of their course, to be eligible for consideration. Our requirements for such courses are detailed at <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/efm/prospective-undergraduates/admissions/university-foundation-programmes.html>

Economics

We will teach you on the assumption that you have no prior knowledge of Economics, and therefore don't require you to offer it as one of your A-Levels. However, if you ARE studying Economics at A-Level then your performance in it will be a useful indication of your analytical skills and we will require you to obtain grade A.

Languages

Degrees involving Study in Continental Europe also have a language requirement; see <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/efm/prospective-undergraduates/admissions/uk-qualifications.html>

Excluded subjects

General Studies and Critical Thinking are excluded.

Subject combinations at A-Level

Essay-writing is an aspect of our degrees and we are therefore unlikely to make an offer to somebody whose A-levels subjects are selected only from among Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Statistics, Chemistry, Physics and Accounting.

When making offers below AAA, we may specify in which subjects you must earn the A grades, according to which we feel are most relevant for your chosen programme

Academic performance to date

In ranking applicants we take account of academic performance to date, and strongly encourage applicants to state their grades in A1 modules. We may also consider the number of A*s predicted at A-Level and earned at GCSE. We give equal consideration to other qualifications (for example overseas qualifications) of the same standard.

Contextual information

We take a holistic approach to all applications, ensuring that the educational and social context in which an applicant applies is taken into consideration, where supported by clear evidence that this may have adversely affected academic achievement. This may include time spent in Local Authority care, information about which is provided in the UCAS application.

We also consider evidence of clear motivation to study. This may include attendance at a University summer school, a targeted Access Scheme (such as Access to Bristol), or participation in Aimhigher outreach activities. Consideration will also be given to applicants who have completed a targeted Access scheme at another university, under the 'Mutual Recognition Scheme',

We do **NOT** take the following into consideration when making admissions decisions: the school type attended by an applicant or whether an applicant's parent has any experience of higher education.

Personal Statement Criteria

In reading the Personal Statement, Admissions Tutors look for evidence of many of the following items: interest in and commitment to the subject; evidence of clear thinking and understanding; intellectual curiosity; reading or research beyond the A-level syllabus; a high standard of written English (while taking into account that English will be a second language for some applicants); (for degrees involving Study on Continental Europe) skills and interest in foreign language and culture; non-academic achievement or experience; positions of responsibility; interest in hobbies or pastimes; voluntary work; work experience.

In all cases the School will attempt to take account of the opportunities available to applicants.

Since applicants have considerable opportunity to draft and correct the UCAS form before submission, we expect there to be no spelling or grammatical errors. Appropriate consideration will be taken where English is a second language.

Reference Criteria

We expect the Reference to provide: predictions of examination marks (and, where the qualifications are unusual, to explain their meaning); an overall assessment of the applicant, in particular their suitability for further study; a discussion of earlier exam results, especially if they were influenced by personal or medical circumstances (and are thus a poor guide to ability); discussion of the applicant's intellectual curiosity, interests and suitability for the subject; and discussion of the applicant's other interests.

Criteria for international applicants

The number of students, associated funding and the processes by which these are managed by central Government for UK/EU students is different to that for international students and, like most universities, we have separate allocations of places for those two categories of student as a result.

The procedure for processing overseas applications is similar to that for Home applications, except that, subject to sufficient places being available, the application deadline for equal academic consideration is 30th June rather than 15th January.

Our typical offers for the more common qualifications are shown on our website at <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/efm/prospective-undergraduates/admissions/>

English Language requirements can be found at <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/efm/prospective-undergraduates/admissions/el-req.html/>

3. Offers

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Management programmes

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N200 Management	AAA-AAB inc AB in C3 and C4
NN42 Accounting and Management	AAA-AAB inc AB in C3 and C4

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Joint programmes with Departments outside the School of Economics, Finance and Management

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Other qualifications, including international qualifications, will be considered on their individual merits; further general information is available at <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/international/study-at-bristol/how-to-apply/country-specific/> and you can find more specific information about the requirements of the School of Economics, Finance and Management at <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/efm/prospective-undergraduates/admissions/> which offers links to detail about other EU qualifications, international qualifications and University Foundation Programmes.

Variations in offer level

Whether we make an offer to a given applicant, and what conditions we attach to any offer, are matters of academic judgement which take into account a wide range of important factors. As you can appreciate, places at the University are highly sought after and we strive to ensure we offer places to those individuals who show the most potential to benefit from an education at Bristol. These are complex decisions. It would not be possible to go into every single aspect of this in detail.

In some cases we may judge that some students have very high academic potential despite lower expected A-levels grades, particularly where there is evidence of educational disadvantage -see section 7.5 of the University's Admissions Principles and Procedures at <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/university/governance/policies/admissions/home-eu.html#toc07>

4. Other ---- transfers and direct second year entry

Transfers between programmes within the School of Economics, Finance and Management may be possible at the end of the first year, subject to satisfactory attainment in appropriate prerequisites.

We only accept students for **direct entry into the second year** in exceptional circumstances, as described at <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/efm/prospective-undergraduates/admissions/second-year-entry.html>

Dr Stephen R Lyne, September 2011